

Decreasing production of cotton in A.P.

1173. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the production of cotton in Andhra Pradesh is constantly decreasing which is effecting the textile production targets in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last four years, year-wise; and
- (c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The availability of raw cotton during the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 was adequate to meet the requirement of the domestic textile industry in the country including the state of Andhra Pradesh. Production of cotton in Andhra Pradesh during last four years are as under:—

Cotton Year (Oct.-Sept.)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01 (estimated)
Production (in lakh bales of 170 Kg. Each)	25.50	25.00	22.00	26.00

Source: Cotton Advisory Board.

(c) The Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton to improve the productivity and quality of cotton in the country including the State of Andhra Pradesh.